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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

Executive Registry

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3612

May 13, 1987

DDA/REG  
LOGGEDMEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL JAMES F. LEMON  
Executive Secretary  
Department of Defense[Redacted]  
Executive Secretary  
Central Intelligence AgencyCAPTAIN JOSEPH C. STRASSER  
Executive Assistant to the Chairman  
Joint Chiefs of StaffMR. WILLIAM R. STAPLES  
Executive Secretary  
Arms Control and Disarmament Agency

SUBJECT: Location of Nuclear Risk Reduction Center (U)

Your comments are requested by May 27 on the attached State Department proposal for locating the Nuclear Risk Reduction Center (NRRC) which the United States and the Soviet Union have recently agreed to establish. (S)

  
Grant S. Green, Jr.  
Executive SecretaryCopy to: Mr. Melvyn Levitsky  
Executive Secretary  
Department of StateDDA REGISTRY  
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United States Department of State



Washington, D.C. 20520

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**SECRET**

May 11, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. FRANK C. CARLUCCI  
THE WHITE HOUSESUBJECT: Implementing the Nuclear Risk Reduction Center (NRRC)  
Agreement

Ad referendum agreement has been reached with the Soviets to establish NRRCs. This is an important step which should be finalized in the near future. The Department has previously expressed our view to you that the U.S. NRRC should be housed and operated by the State Department. With a final agreement imminent, it is important that the remaining issues be settled so that appropriate preparations can be made to begin NRRC operations.

The Department has carefully analyzed what would be required to operate the NRRC and concludes that we have the resources and expertise needed to carry out this task effectively.

The Department has identified an area in the State Department Operations Center that is ideally suited for use by the NRRC. The proposed location already has a complete communications system linked to both the military and diplomatic networks; direct 24-hour interface through INR with other intelligence agencies; secure voice and facsimile equipment, and a recently renovated work area appropriate for the visitors the Center will attract. Installation of the equipment necessary to establish the NRRC communications link could begin immediately.

We envision a 24-hour, 365-day operation with three shifts. The NRRC would be staffed by a communicator and a Russian-language qualified officer, supervised by a more senior Foreign Service Officer during normal duty hours. At other times, the Department's senior Watch Officer on duty would act as Supervisor of the NRRC. The Department would also welcome additional language-qualified personnel from other USG agencies.

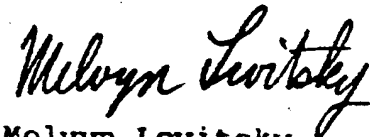
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If the volume of NRRC activities created a need for additional linguistic support, experienced State Department interpreters are on call and available within minutes. In addition, the highly trained professional staff of the State Department Watch Office would be co-located with the NRRC and could provide support, advice and supervision as needed.

While we are proposing that the Department have overall responsibility for the operation and staffing of the NRRC, all communications handled by the Center would be coordinated with all other agencies concerned and the National Security Council.

The matter of appropriate interagency mechanisms for reviewing NRRC operations and policy will need to be addressed.

We wish to reiterate our strong view that the direct, government-to-government channel which the NRRC represents is one which should be operated by the State Department in full coordination with other relevant agencies. The State Department is responsible for all government-to-government communications, regardless of how transmitted, except for direct communications links between the President and other heads of government (e.g., the "Hotline"). The medium used to transmit the information -- in this case the NRRC -- does not lessen this Department's responsibility for ensuring the clarity and consistency of all communications with the Soviets. As the lead agency for formulating and implementing U.S. foreign policy, the Department of State is the most appropriate agency to operate the U.S. NRRC.



Melvyn Levitsky  
Executive Secretary

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(NAME)456-2224

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